



1-1973

The Voice, January 1973: Volume 19, Issue 3

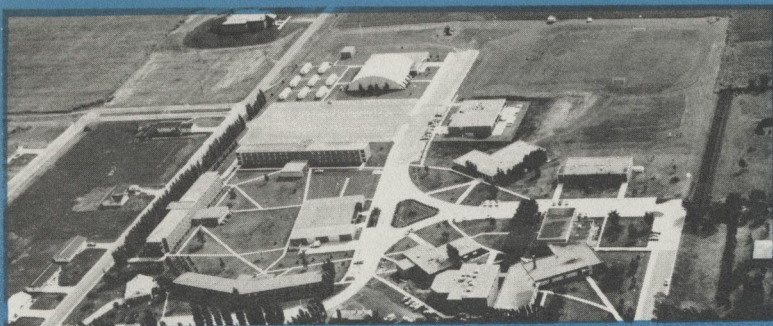
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/dordt_voice

Recommended Citation

Dordt College, "The Voice, January 1973: Volume 19, Issue 3" (1973). *The Voice Archive*. 206.
https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/dordt_voice/206

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Voice Archive by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.



DORDT COLLEGE

VOICE

Volume XIX

Sioux Center, Iowa January, 1973

Number 3

NEW YEAR'S REFLECTIONS

"Fear Not"

Jesus was fully aware of the fears of His people. Again and again He calms, comforts, and encourages His trembling disciples with the command, "Fear not;" "Be not afraid." How we love and appreciate this constant, tender, compassionate concern of our Lord. Let's face it. All of us are subject to great fear. As little children we rush often into His blessed presence to hear afresh those soothing words, "Fear not."

This is true as concerns each one of us in our personal, daily struggles. We war not merely against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers in high places. How totally inadequate we are in ourselves to do battle with these imposing forces of evil. Martin Luther beautifully exposed our insufficiency when he wrote, "Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing." Indeed!

But this is also true concerning our labors as families, churches, schools, and other kingdom organizations. Those among us who are more intimately and officially involved with these kingdom institutions are keenly aware of our human frailties as we face seemingly overwhelming obstacles. We are driven by our weakness to draw upon the ever available strength of our Lord. Then that exceedingly beautiful and satisfying experience becomes ours, namely, that God's strength is manifest in our weakness. Indeed, we glory in our weakness. For it is by the avenue of weakness that we enjoy the victorious, powerful presence of our faithful, covenant Lord. We are no longer afraid.

In that frame of mind we greet the New Year. We sense the great drama that is to unfold before us, of which we are a vital part. We know our Captain; we vow anew our allegiance; we await His orders; we draw the sword of truth; we engage in battle; the scent of triumph fills the air; we are proud to be marching in our King's army.

Against the background of this exhilarating confidence, what specifically should it mean for Dordt College in the year 1973? Obviously, there will be struggle. Perhaps nowhere else within the kingdom life does one confront the complexities and challenges of issues and practices more agonizingly, forcefully and pertinently than on a college campus.

The problems with which the homes, the churches, and other kingdom agencies wrestle, all converge sharply upon the academic community. Here they become the object of study and debate; pro's and con's; questioning and resolving; probing and testing; trial and error; bias and conviction. High expectancy and heavy demands are placed upon our college by the people of God. The weaknesses which they encounter in their family life and which drive them to the Lord for His strength, these weaknesses are not readily appreciated when they are reflected in our academic institutions. This we can understand. In a sense we are complimented by this. Yet we are not blind to our weaknesses. In the Lord's strength we at Dordt College will face up bravely to our task and determine not to disappoint God's people. We will prayerfully commit ourselves each day to teach and live obediently before the face of our God. We will continue to promote our Calvinistic world-and-life view to the best of our abilities. We will hold before the students, the Christian community, and the world, the vision of Christ's kingdom and rule. As we stumble along and, at times, become afraid, we will listen to Jesus' reminder, "Fear not, little flock, I am in the midst of you."

B. J. Haan

A Blessed and Happy New Year



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN...

Rev. B. J. Haan

HOW REFORMED ARE WE?

A Time For Questions

This is the time of the year to do some reflecting. We are still in the Old Year-New Year mood. We want to know where we came from and where we are going. It is good to evaluate the past and gain a better perspective on the future. No one can deny that we have experienced radical changes. The past few years have been turbulent ones. Our churches, homes and schools did not escape the fury of these stormy years. There is no doubt about the fact that we have lost something of basic importance. We certainly are not the same. Many questions continue to arise in our minds. What of genuine value did we lose? Why did we lose it? What can be done to regain our loss? Are there losses which are healthy? Is our situation critical? Have we, perhaps, come to the stage where a good deal of excess baggage has been burned out and a better climate established for facing up to our Christian calling in today's world? Have we reached the stage where we can zero in on the central issues and not be bogged down by the inconsequential ones?

These, and many more questions are being debated in our circles. We find a wide variety of answers to these questions. The answers indicate about where we are and how complex the situation really is. Traveling around the country and meeting many of our people, I gain a fair sampling of the current thinking among us.

Now I do not claim to know all the right questions, nor do I presume to possess the right answers. However, I do have some very strong convictions concerning what I see to be our basic problem and how to resolve it. Permit me to share some of my thoughts on this with you.

A Serious Charge

Most crucial, as I see it, is the fact that we have to a large extent and in varying degrees lost our truly Reformed, Calvinistic, covenantal-kingdom perspective. Our Reformed principles have gradually weakened and slipped away through the dominating influence of strange theologies, philosophies, and life-styles. This has happened mainly because (1) we have been negligent in vigorously teaching and preaching these Reformed principles; (2) we have failed to alert God's people to

those current views and patterns of living which are contrary to our principles; and, (3) we have been sadly remiss in promoting and living out our Reformed principles in our society. Consequently, too many no longer understand what is Reformed, have little conviction about our faith, are enamored by other views, often condemn what is truly Reformed as being un-Reformed, and foster foreign notions as being Reformed. Furthermore, we find those whom I would designate half-way Calvinists. While they ardently advance certain Calvinistic, Reformed concepts, they, inconsistently, either ignore or openly oppose other cardinal Calvinistic principles. I must confess that I find this to be an extremely frustrating and exasperating situation.

Having frankly risked this serious charge, I realize that my readers are calling for some concrete evidence to support it. Space in this issue of the Voice limits me to just one illustration. The Lord willing, I hope to present other examples in subsequent issues.

A Typical Illustration

The debate which has been raging in our circles over the now famous Reports 36 and 44 on Scripture typifies what I have been contending. What do we find? There are those who continue to affirm that these reports contain elements which are unbiblical, unreformed, and which open the door to those who are proponents of certain heretical views concerning the Holy Scriptures. I can appreciate those who sincerely believe that there are dangerous aspects to these reports. However, if there are such elements, I have not been shown what they are and if they do, in fact, exist. But what really troubles me is that I hear and read certain objections to Report 44 which are presented with the intent of defending our Reformed faith when actually these objections themselves constitute a denial of what we have always been taught as biblical and Reformed. For example, in Report 44 we read the following paragraph:

The importance of understanding the content and purpose of Scripture in connection with authority can be clarified by a comparison with what we commonly call "general revelation." When one speaks of the divine,

plenary authority of Scripture, he must recognize that it is also warranted to speak of the divine, plenary authority of general revelation. We must confess that God reveals himself in the 'creation, preservation, and government of the universe.' This revelation, usually called general revelation or creation revelation by Reformed theologians, is also given with divine authority. While this revelation in creation and history is a non-verbal revelation, we must confess that the divine authority of this revelation is also pervasive; it is also a divine, plenary authority—that is, all of general revelation is addressed to us by God with divine authority. Of course, as a result of the fall man is not a faithful respondent to the creation revelation; the sinner now needs the Scripture as the 'spectacles' by which he, through faith in Jesus Christ, is again enabled to read God's revelation in creation faithfully.

What Reformed Writers Say

Some have raised strong objections to this statement concerning general or natural revelation. Yet what have we always maintained? Although one could turn to any number of competent, Reformed writers, I find in Dr. Cornelius Van Til's chapter on 'Nature and Scripture' some very pertinent observations. A general comment or two by Van Til on the relation of God's revelation in Scripture and in nature are in order before quoting him more specifically on the question of the authority of general revelation. Van Til writes:

Herein precisely lies the union of the various forms of God's revelation with one another. God's revelation in nature, together with God's revelation in Scripture, form God's one grand scheme of covenant revelation of himself to man. The two forms of revelation must therefore be seen as presupposing and supplementing one another. They are aspects of one general philosophy of history.²

Later Van Til has this to say:

Here then is the picture of a well-integrated and unified philosophy of history in which revelation in nature and revelation in Scripture are mutually meaningless without one another and

¹ Acts of Synod, 1972, pp. 506-507.

² The Infallible Word, Dr. Cornelius Van Til, 1946, p. 259.

mutually fruitful when taken together.

To bring out the unity and therewith the meaning of this total picture more clearly, we turn now to note the necessity, the authority, the sufficiency, and the perspicuity of natural revelation, as these correspond to the necessity, the authority, the sufficiency and the perspicuity of Scripture.

Van Til-Authority of General Revelation

Now when Van Til discusses the specific question of the authority of natural revelation, he makes this noteworthy statement:

All created reality is inherently revelational of the nature and will of God. Even man's ethical reaction to God's revelation is still revelational. And as revelational of God, it is authoritative. The meaning of the Confession's doctrine of the authority of Scripture does not become clear to us till we see it against the background of the original and basically authoritative character of God's revelation in nature. Scripture speaks authoritatively to such as must naturally live by authority. God speaks with authority wherever and whenever he speaks.²

Of course, in referring to Van Til on the point in question, I am not saying that Van Til agrees with all that Report 44 maintains. Nevertheless, on the matter of the authority of general revelation, Van Til offers emphatic support for the position of Report 44.

A Crucial Matter

But is the issue of the nature of general revelation and its relationship to special revelation all that significant? Do we really have to be so concerned about it? To these questions my answer is that it is, indeed, extremely basic and important. Our Reformed, Calvinistic world-and-life view is intimately bound up with this question. If we are off base here we will be constantly running into difficulty. And the proper understanding of this issue is crucial for Christian, covenantal education. In fact, if we are wrong in our thinking concerning the character of general revelation and its relationship to the scriptures, we are in deep trouble. Think and pray about it.

S.U.B. STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER

The center of social activities at Dordt is the Student Union. The SUB, (Student Union Building) as it is more commonly known, is in its second year of operation and has proved itself as a much needed and appreciated facility by the students. It provides the student with activities and services that make his stay on campus a pleasant and varied one.

The SUB offers a large lounge, modern snackbar, bookstore, game room, offices for student publications and government, and a large conference room.

The beautiful lounge provides a quiet, comfortable atmosphere for the student to relax or study. It is complete with comfortable chairs and couches, beautiful art work on the walls, soft lights and stereo music. The lounge is often the scene of an impromptu sing-a-long around the baby grand piano, and every Sunday evening there is an all student hymn-sing which packs hundreds into the lounge for, as one student put it, "our spiritual boost for the coming week."

The Snack-bar begins operation each day, except Sunday, at 7:30 a.m. and closes at night at 11:30 p.m. It is a convenient place for a mid-morning "coffee kletz," lunch-time snack or late evening snack during a study break. Prices are very inexpensive, because it is intended as a service and not a profit making business. On Sunday nights it is the place for coffee and cookies after church.

The campus bookstore in the SUB has available all the necessary study materials for the student. It also carries some clothing, gifts, cards, stationery, and toiletries; it satisfies nearly every student need.

On the lower floor of the SUB there is a large game room with four bowling alleys, four pool tables, and ping-pong. This is an inexpensive way for the student to relax, get some physical activity, or get acquainted with a date away from the academic atmosphere. Many tournaments, leagues and even some physical education classes are scheduled here. It's a busy place even during vacations when the game room is made available to church groups and family groups for a nominal rental fee.

In addition, the SUB is also the center for all student publications. The Diamond, Cannon, and Signet staffs each have an office workroom, and clubs have a conference room. The campus switchboard serves as the telephone communication link between the students and the off-campus world. The telephone operator also serves

as a postal clerk and a box-office secretary.

The SUB is a beautiful building, and we at Dordt are very proud of it and enjoy having visitors stop in to visit us. So stop in sometime, join a hymn sing in the lounge, have a cup of coffee in the snack bar, or take a church group for a night of bowling.

L. Van Noord

CONCERT CHOIR TOUR ITINERARY

The Dordt College Concert Choir, under the direction of Dale Grotenhuis, is planning a concert tour to the West Coast in the spring of 1973. Between March 20 and April 2, the choir will travel more than 5100 miles. Performances will include 12 afternoon and evening concerts and eight high school assembly programs. Traveling via a 47 passenger Greyhound bus driven by veteran charter driver Jim Greaves, the Concert Choir will travel through eleven states. The tentative itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, March 21
Denver Christian High, Assembly
Wednesday, March 21
Denver, Colorado, Evening Concert
Friday, March 23
Fort Wingate, New Mexico, High School, Assembly
Friday, March 23
Phoenix, Arizona, Evening Concert
Saturday, March 24
Redlands, Calif., Evening Concert
Sunday, March 25
Lakewood, Calif., Afternoon Concert
Sunday, March 25
Ontario, Calif., Evening Concert
Monday, March 26
Valley Christian, Assembly-a.m.
Tuesday, March 26
Ripon, Calif., Evening Concert
Wednesday, March 28
Seattle High School, Assembly-aft.
Wednesday, March 28
Lynden, Wash., Evening Concert
Thursday, March 29
Lynden, Chr. High, Assembly
Thursday, March 29
Frazer Valley, Vancouver, B.C. Assembly, Daytime concert
Thursday, March 29
Lynden, Wash., Evening Concert
Friday, March 30
Seattle, Wash., High School Assembly, Daytime
Friday, March 30
Sunnyside, Wash., Evening Concert
Sunday, April 1
Bozeman, Montana, Aft. Concert
Sunday, April 1
Manhattan, Montana, Eve. Concert

¹The Infallible Word, Dr. Cornelius Van Til, 1946, p. 261.

²Ibid., p. 266.

COMMENTS

Recently a small group of students and their coach from a Christian College in Minnesota visited the Dordt College campus. They were given a tour during which they made a comment which may interest our people. They said, "This is really a beautiful campus; the buildings are attractive and seem to be very functional with no fringes." This is just one example of the types of expressions which I hear during the course of the year, from the many visitors on campus coming from every part of the United States and a few provinces in Canada.

Last summer we were delighted to welcome visitors from several foreign countries, including the Netherlands, Australia, and Korea. These guests were truly impressed with the campus, the fine academic facilities and particularly the housing units. Evidently this was something new to them. They were convinced that dormitory living, under Christian supervision, is the answer to the many concerns which parents have for their college young people.

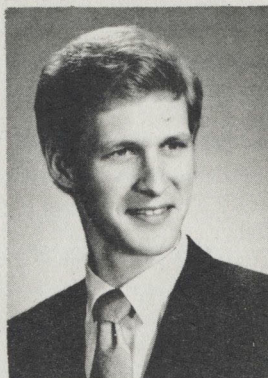
Why do I write about this? Having been with the college movement since 1952, in one capacity or another, it has been a real pleasure and blessed experience to witness the remarkable and ongoing development and growth of Dordt. Over a period of seventeen years I have seen the construction activity needed to provide the facilities demanded by a constantly rising enrollment. I have also observed the many new students coming to college for the first time. This is enough to challenge and arouse to action, and what a thrill each year to see the scores of dedicated young people, motivated by their God-centered training enter the place of their calling. Something else has deeply impressed me. It is the manner in which the Dordt faculty has been increased over the years from five dedicated men to 55 men and women who have become knit together in a common, kingdom task. This moves one to a spirit of humble gratitude, with joyful praise to our covenant God. Maybe we have become so dependent upon these external blessings, or have taken them so much for granted, that we fail to see what God has done for us at Dordt College.

One of my pleasant responsibilities and jobs is to acquaint visitors with our campus, but more importantly, to acquaint them with the principles and purposes expressed in the teaching and in the lives of many of the students and alumni. The question often comes to my mind, why don't even more of our people send their sons and daughters here for their education? What can they honestly expect by letting them go to a godless, secular institution? Are we perhaps blind to the true beauty of Dordt as others

see it? And to the real purpose for which Dordt was founded, namely, being unique because of our total commitment to the Reformed, Calvinistic world and life concept? Does it take others to tell us about the riches we possess? Let's think about this. We invite you to visit our campus and to find out the real reason behind Dordt. I must say that there are many who do appreciate all our blessings, and no wonder. For they have played a major role in the growth and development of Dordt College through their prayers and generous support.

R. J. Dykstra

MELLEMA RECEIVES M. D.



Dr. Burnell J. Mellema, a Dordt alumnus from Reading, Minnesota, has recently completed his medical school training and becomes the first alumnus to complete his undergraduate training at Dordt and go on to receive an M.D.

Dr. Mellema was accepted into the University of Minnesota Medical School after three years of undergraduate study at Dordt. He graduated from the University Medical School in June, 1972. During his junior year at medical school, he became a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the National Medical Society. He and his wife have also joined the Christian Medical Society.

Dr. Mellema is presently doing a one-year internship at the Hennepin County General Hospital in Minneapolis. His wife, Beth, is a pediatric social worker at St. Paul-Ramsey Hospital in St. Paul. Dr. and Mr. Mellema have applied to the Indian Health Service of the USPHS and plan to spend two years with them if accepted.

In reflecting on his undergraduate training at Dordt, Dr. Mellema commented: "Looking back, the academic training which I received at Dordt has been a more than adequate background for medical school. After attending a large secular university I have become more appreciative of the opportunities for close interaction with Christian faculty members which I had at Dordt. The feeling of comradeship with the rest of the student body and faculty is uniquely strong at Dordt; this is an asset which can't be provided at a much larger school and which isn't provided at

most other schools of comparable size."

Presently, Dordt has a number of alumni who have completed their undergraduate training at Dordt and expect to graduate from medical school in the next few years.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING

The Dordt College Fall Foundation Day Drive has reached a total of \$50,000.00 with a substantial number of churches left to submit the results of the drive in their churches. It is expected that the final total will be around \$60,000.

Dordt is always gratified by the generous response of God's people to its requests for help with the operational expenses of the college. Many thousands of people have responded again this year and we would like to again express our thanks and sincere gratitude to each of you who participated.

Throughout the country, there were also many hundreds of contact men, young people, and various church group members who helped with the drive by making personal calls for gifts, telephone calls, etc. To all of these people we would also like to extend a note of our appreciation for giving of your time and talents. The success of the drive was dependent upon your efforts.

As explained in previous publicity, all of the funds received from the Fall Foundation Day drive are used to help pay the difference between what tuition brings in as income and what it costs to operate the college. As college costs continue to spiral, the importance of this drive to the financial health of the school becomes increasingly critical.

In Memory

Dordt College has received the following memorial gifts recently in loving memory of departed loved ones:

The De Stigter families, a gift to the Library in memory of their beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother,

Mrs. Lane De Stigter
of

Sioux Center, Iowa

From the Ora et Labora Society, Lebanon, Iowa, Christian Reformed Church in memory of,

Mrs. T. Hooyer
and

Mr. H. Van Gorp

From a friend in memory of,
Mrs. Louie Vander Plaats
of

Bejou, Minn.

May the Lord comfort the bereaved and strengthen you in the knowledge that in His providence all things work together for good for those who love Him.